

Dustin Monroe

Madame Chair and members, I come today to oppose House Bill 108 that will revise registration and proof of identity requirements for voting.

One of the amendments is that a government document such as a military ID will not be acceptable form of Identification used to vote. This is appalling and unacceptable to me. These two IDs, the requirements were to pay a fee and be born. My military ID I earned by defending this country. Some of Americans like my Friend Antonio Burnside, a childhood friend of mine died defending this countries rights. We grew up poor HUD housing in Great Falls and both joined the military to better ourselves.

What House Bill 108 does, it limits who can vote. This bill is trying to eliminate the young adult vote, elderly, low income, and minorities like myself. Because the bill does not promote voting instead it is restricting voting for Montanans.

There are arguments that this bill is necessary to prevent illegal voting and voter fraud, also assumptions that everyone has a driver's license. The bill also offers free Montana driver's licenses for anyone 18 by the next election to try sweeten the deal.

There has not, to my knowledge ever been any prosecuted illegal voting in Montana and with the past election and recounts there were no evidence found. To attain a drivers license you need a birth certificate and Social Security card, which under this amendment won't be applicable, but these government documents are required just get a driver license. Also we all know nothing is for free because the counties will have pay the fee for everyone who does not have a driver license over 18. The national average 11% of the population doesn't carry a photo ID that meets House Bill 108 requirements. In the 2010 census 765,852 were 18 and over in Montana, out of that 84, 244 would need proper identification with so that would cost Montana at \$15.50 for 18 yrs. and 21-64 olds pay \$40.50 so close to a quarter of the people we could say would need a free driver license and between 21-64 so $(22, 122 * 40.50 =$ cost the general fund \$895, 941.

It would also disfranchise Native Americans because of the distance some not enrolled Native Americans have to drive from the reservation to vote. Not everyone on a reservation is enrolled but a lot of the reservation shares the same economic conditions. This would affect rural Montana as well because they share some of the challenges to travel as well.

This bill is meant to suppress the vote by making Montana one of the most restrictive states to vote in. We have a law set in place that works already so why change a law that works. To my knowledge no evidence of voter fraud has been found in Montana. Voting is every citizen's right, protected by the US and Montana Constitution

I ask this committee to vote No to House Bill 108